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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (currently amended) A maintenance/recovery device for a liquid discharge device, comprising:

a cap member covering a surface of a nozzle of a liquid discharging head, the liquid discharging head discharging a droplet of a recording liquid from the nozzle;

a resilient contact member provided in the cap member to come in contact with the surface of the nozzle;

a recess-forming member provided in the cap member to form a recess for receiving the recording liquid attracted from the nozzle.

wherein the contact member and the recess-forming member are integrally formed by molding, the recess-forming member is made of a water-repellant resin material containing a water repellent agent, and the recess-forming member comprises a plurality of slopes providing respective inclined surfaces ~~toward~~ extending to an outlet at a bottom of the recess from an entire circumference of an opening part of the cap member, each of the inclined surfaces forming an inclination angle equal to or larger than 20 degrees with respect to a horizontal plane.

2. (original) The maintenance/recovery device according to claim 1 wherein a content of the water repellent agent in the resin material which forms the recess-forming member does not exceed 10 weight percent.

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3. (original) The maintenance/recovery device according to claim 1 wherein the recess of the recess-forming member is provided with corners which are curved.

4. (previously presented) The maintenance/recovery device according to claim 1 wherein a sum of the inclination angle of the slopes of the recess-forming member with respect to the horizontal plane and a contact angle between the slopes and the recording liquid is 70 degrees or more.

5. (original) The maintenance/recovery device according to claim 4 wherein the sum of the inclination angle and the contact angle is 90 degrees or more.

6. (currently amended) An image forming device comprising:

a liquid discharge head provided as a recording head which discharges a droplet of a recording liquid from a nozzle; and

a maintenance/recovery device provided to maintain and recover performance of the liquid discharge head, the maintenance/recovery device comprising:

a cap member covering a surface of the nozzle of the liquid discharging head;

a resilient contact member provided in the cap member to come in contact with the surface of the nozzle;

a recess-forming member provided in the cap member to form a recess for receiving the recording liquid attracted from the nozzle,

wherein the contact member and the recess-forming member are integrally formed by molding, the recess-forming member is made of a water-repellant resin material containing a

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water repellent agent, and the recess-forming member comprises a plurality of slopes providing respective inclined surfaces ~~toward~~ extending to an outlet at a bottom of the recess from an entire circumference of an opening part of the cap member, each of the inclined surfaces forming an inclination angle equal to or larger than 20 degrees with respect to a horizontal plane.

7. (original) The image forming device according to claim 6 wherein the recording liquid contains a water, a pigment of 6 weight percent or more, a polymer component, and a water-soluble organic solvent, and the recording liquid has a surface tension of 40 mN/m or less at 25 degrees C and has a viscosity that is above 5 cp and below 20 cp at 25 degrees C.

8. (original) The image forming device according to claim 6 wherein a content of the water repellent agent in the resin material which forms the recess-forming member does not exceed 10 weight percent.

9. (original) The image forming device according to claim 6 wherein the recess of the recess-forming member is provided with corners which are curved.

10. (previously presented) The image forming device according to claim 6 wherein a sum of the inclination angle of the slopes of the recess-forming member with respect to the horizontal plane and a contact angle between the slopes and the recording liquid is 70 degrees or more.